

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING April 19, 2010

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry G. Yoder, Chairman
 Ryan Mayberry, Vice-Chairman
 Wes Bolick
 Harold M. Odom
 W. Darrell Robertson

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

MEDIA: Micah Henry, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, April 19, 2010 in the CVCC / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Yoder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Matt Cooksey gave the invocation and Norris Kever led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT*****

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, announced that a solar energy facility, initiated by the EnergyUnited Energy Corporation, would be established in Alexander County. The facility will be the largest of its kind in western North Carolina with a \$6 million investment. He introduced Tim Holder, EnergyUnited Vice President of Sales and Economic Development.

Mr. Holder stated that after a 2-year process and looking at 20 counties in North Carolina, EnergyUnited would locate the solar facility in Alexander County off Boston Road and US Highway 64. The facility will use 11 acres of the 25-acre site. He explained that crews will begin grading the site on Friday, which will take 30 days, and approximately 6-8 weeks will be needed to install the panels. Plans are to be in operation by August 1, 2010.

He also mentioned that the size of the Sun Edison unit was one megawatt and that the solar panels would create an output of 16 million kwh's per year. He also noted that a 20-year agreement was in place to provide this service.

Chairman Yoder suggested an open house be hosted to allow the public to tour the facility. Mr. Holder replied that an open house would be planned and that guided field trips would later be offered to the schools.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Chairman Yoder commended the ACHS basketball team who were honored this week for having the highest GPA in the state. He thanked the athletes for their hard work as well as the teachers, coaches, and parents.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Bolick requested the discussion of HB 314 that would prevent cities from annexing into a county without receiving permission from that county's board of commissioners. Chairman Yoder felt that item should be discussed during Other Business.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT OF CDBG #08-C1843 INFRASTRUCTURE HOOK-UP PROGRAM

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, explained that the purpose of the \$75,000 infrastructure grant was to provide 27 water taps and connections and two sewer taps and connections to serve low and moderate income families in Alexander County. A total of 58 citizens received the benefit from the grant and \$60,936.20 was spent for taps and connections, \$2,000 for planning, and \$8,846.89 for administration. She pointed out that there was not enough time to add any additional beneficiaries to the project; therefore, the \$3,216.91 remaining CDBG funds would need to be de-obligated.

She requested the Board's approval to submit the closeout papers to the Division of Community Assistance, NC Department of Commerce and the de-obligation of the remaining funds.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being none, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to allow the submittal of the closeout papers and de-obligation of remaining funds as requested. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PRESENTATION

Chairman Yoder presented Alexander County Community Grants to the following groups:

- Habitat for Humanity – to build the 11th Habitat Home in Alexander County.
- Ellendale Ruritan Club – for construction of a cook pit and shed.
- Bethlehem Community Development Association – to install a lighted community information sign at the intersection of Hwy 127 and Shiloh Church Road.
- Rocky Springs Community Projects, Inc. – to purchase gravel for a truck ramp.
- Rocky Springs United Methodist Church Angel Food Ministry – to construct a retaining wall to control erosion and maintain an area for the Angel Food delivery truck.
- Friends of the Library – to purchase furniture and accessories for a children’s area and meeting room in the new section of the Bethlehem Branch Library.
- Alexander Central Cougar Club – for replacement of heads for irrigation at the ACHS soccer field.
- Alexander County Crime Stoppers, Inc. – to purchase two tasers, 10 taser cartridges, and two taser cameras.
- Little River #2 Ruritans – to pour concrete and finish bottom shed.
- Gwaltney Ruritan Club – for gravel in the parking area, rock dust for the ball field, and replacement of old boards on the bleachers.
- Backpack Program – to purchase food for backpack items.
- Alexander International Center – for Cultural Exchange Program (cooking lessons, dance lessons, movie night, etc.)

Chairman Yoder stated that each organization would receive \$500 to be used towards materials for these projects.

AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF TAYLORSVILLE FOR PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION

Rick French, County Manager, advised the Board that the Town of Taylorsville was interested in Alexander County collecting the Town's property taxes. He pointed out that the County currently collected the Town's motor vehicle taxes at a 1.5% fee.

He explained that the Town would pay all conversion costs and the County would collect property taxes for a fee of 2%, which would generate approximately \$12,000 per year for the County. He provided a proposed agreement between the County and Town which stated that the collection would initially take place for a period of one year and the costs would then be reviewed. The County will not charge more than 2.5% of taxes collected.

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF JOHN GARWOOD FOR THE NC AWARD

Commissioner Robertson explained that staff recently received a letter from Senator Steve Goss requesting support for his nomination of John Garwood for the North Carolina Award.

Therefore, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve a proclamation supporting the nomination of John Garwood for the NC Award to be submitted to the NC Department of Cultural Resources. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Rick French, County Manager, presented the following reappointments to County boards and committees:

Board of Health – Reappoint Dr. Amy Inman for 3 years.

Planning & Zoning Commission – Reappoint Ray Combs for 3 years.

Voluntary Farmland Preservation Board – Reappoint Kathy Chatham and Ryan Mayberry for 4 years.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the reappointments as presented. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #37 - #41

Rick French, County Manager, reviewed the purpose of budget ordinance amendments #37 - #42, which included the following information:

Budget Amendment #37 – To increase the Public Buildings budget for utility bills through June 2010. To increase the Jail budget for medical expenses through June 2010. To increase the Pretrial Release budget due to an unexpected inpatient treatment invoice. To increase the Recreation budget for Matheson Tournament expenses and revenues. To increase the Medical Examiner budget for expenses through June 2010. To budget for 12 Community Grant awards of \$500 each.

Budget Amendment #38 – To decrease the General Fund budget due to investment earnings lower than original estimates.

Budget Amendment #39 – To reclassify the Capital Improvements Fund as the School Capital Improvements Fund for the implementation of Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement #54 beginning in July 2010.

Budget Amendment #40 – To reduce the budgeted interfund transfer from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Fund for 2009-2010.

Budget Amendment #41 – To reclassify the Capital Improvements Fund as the School Capital Improvements Fund for the implementation of Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement #54 beginning in July 2010.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve budget amendments #37 - #41. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following items during Other Business:

- A. County Maintenance staff is currently working on the expansion of the Bethlehem Branch library. Several photos of the process were viewed. Mr. French asked the Board members to check their schedules for May 13, 2010 for a grand opening ceremony.

Chairman Yoder pointed out that the expansion was made possible through fundraisers by the Friends of the Library and County Maintenance staff.

- B. Bids for the Vashti Road Water Project were opened on April 6, 2010. Twelve bids were received and the low bidder was Advanced Development Concepts. Mr. French requested the Board award the contract for the project to Advanced Development Concepts implementing Alternate No.1 in the amount of \$719,464.93.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to award the contract to Advanced Development Concepts as requested with substantial on-site inspections. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- C. Commissioner Robertson noted that Parker French, son of County Manager French, would be graduating from Liberty University on May 15, 2010.
- D. Commissioner Bolick asked for the Board's views on support of HB 314 and whether Representative Warren and Senator Goss should be contacted about the bill. He felt staff should investigate the bill to determine if a resolution was necessary. Mr. French replied that he would research the bill and provide a report before the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the April 5, 2010 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.

Chairman Yoder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, & PERSONNEL

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:22 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6). Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 PM. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board